

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

East Liberty Association.

1896.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe in one only true and living God ; and that there are three persons in the Godhead—the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.
3. We believe in the doctrine of eternal and particular election, and the doctrine of original sin, and man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature by his own free will and ability.
4. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.
5. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit, and that the saints shall persevere in grace and never finally fall away.
6. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are only subjects of the ordinances, and that the true mode of baptism is immersion.
7. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment, and that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting, and the joys of the righteous will be eternal.
8. We believe that no minister has a right to administer the ordinances only such as have been called of God, as was Aaron, and come under the imposition of hands by a presbytery, and in fellowship in the church of which he is a member.

PROCEEDINGS

— OF THE —

SIXTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

— OF THE —

EAST LIBERTY ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

**Milltown Baptist Church, Chambers County,
Alabama,**

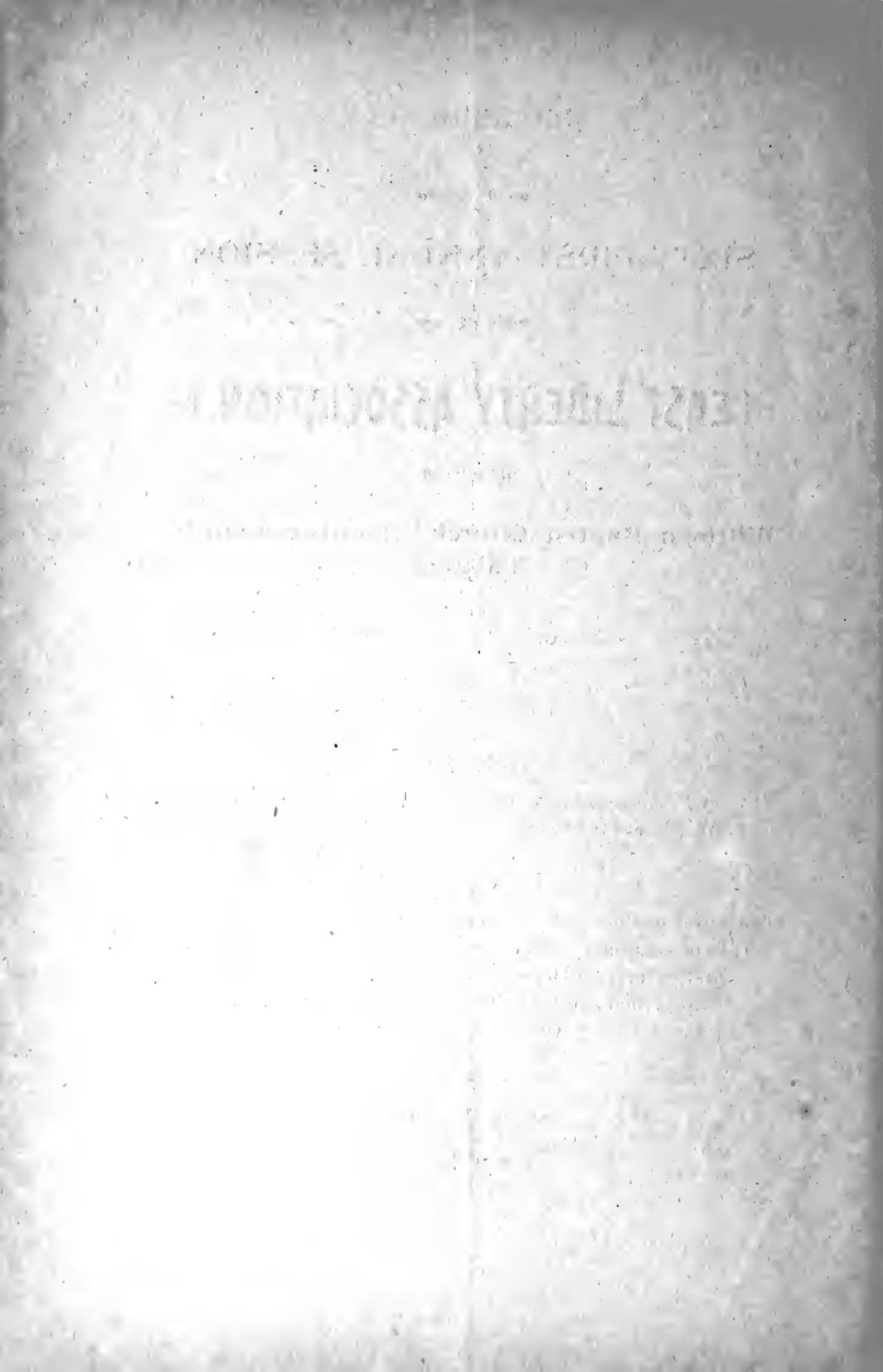
OCTOBER 6, 7 AND 8, 1896.

OFFICERS:

REV. J. P. SHAFFER, Moderator _____ Dadeville, Ala.
REV. W. C. BLEDSOE, Sec'y and Treas'r _____ LaFayette, “

The next session will be held with the Dadeville church,
Tallapoosa County, Ala., beginning on Tuesday after the
first Sunday in October, 1897, Rev. G. A. Hornady
to preach the Introductory Sermon; Rev. J. L.
Gregory, alternate.

Montgomery, Ala.:
ALABAMA BAPTIST PRINT,
1896.



PROCEEDINGS.

MILLTOWN, ALA., October 6, 1896.

1. The East Liberty Baptist Association assembled in sixty-first annual session on Tuesday, October 6, 1896, in the meeting-house of the Milltown Baptist church.

2. The annual sermon was preached at 11 o'clock by W. C. Bledsoe. Text, 1 Cor. 15:10.

AFTERNOON SESSION—2 O'CLOCK P. M.

3. The Association was called to order by the Moderator, John P. Shaffer, and after devotional exercises conducted by J. G. Harris, the letters were read and the following messengers from the churches were enrolled:

1. Antioch—S. R. Woolly, T. R. Jones, J. S. Woolly.
2. Beulah—W. A. Adams, J. O. Bledsoe, G. W. Hunt.
3. Bethlehem—F. W. Shank, H. W. Oliver.
4. Bethel (Lee)—Jas. T. Robinson.
5. Bethel (Chambers)—J. T. Lee, Robert Wheeler, W. H. Dunkin, B. F. Goodwin.
6. Cusseta—J. B. Barrow, F. Vernon.
7. Center—J. W. Foster, W. C. Sharp.
8. County Line—L. T. Talbot, J. M. Langley, W. W. Croutéh, F. L. Mathews, Ed Blanton.
9. Camp Hill—J. P. Seroyer, W. R. Dawson, B. F. Fargason, J. C. Jester, G. W. Dawson.
10. Dadeville—Joseph H. Johnson, W. C. McIntosh, G. J. Sorrell, J. McIntosh.
11. Eagle Creek—W. H. Shepherd, G. W. Adair, J. L. Shepherd, J. T. Coker, W. O. Shepherd.
12. Farmville—W. S. Talbot, J. C. Wilson, R. N. Bottsford, W. W. Bradley.
13. Five Points—J. M. Jackson, Alex. Yeargan.
14. Fellowship (Tal.)—E. Sanders, J. W. Dabbs, J. R. Morgan.
15. Fellowship (Ran.)—J. T. Hudson.
16. High Pine—W. P. East, J. B. Tomlin, A. A. Price.
17. LaFayette—W. B. Nichols, J. T. Jones, J. D. Abernathy, L. D. Blackman, R. E. Black.
18. Langdale—W. G. Phillips, Z. C. Robertson.
19. Lanette—R. A. Gaines, H. M. Woodall, S. M. Foster, G. W. Morgan, J. L. Barrow.
20. Lebanon—W. Y. Harrison, W. A. Purcell, T. R. Gardner, W. H. Heard.
21. Liberty—F. A. Weaver, F. M. Handley.
22. Mary—(By letter.)
23. Milltown—J. F. Breed, W. H. Blackman, J. L. Denney, J. M. Rotton, W. M. Woodall.
24. Mt. Zion—A. F. Duffey, J. A. Tucker, H. W. Davis, A. J. McGlaughn.

25. New Hope—M. V. Maley, T. G. Crowder, J. M. Veasy, W. A. Wimbush, D. A. Magnan.
26. Providence—I. T. Morgan.
27. Pleasant Ridge—W. C. Roeck, O. P. Sanford.
28. Roanoke—H. M. Mickle, G. W. Hill, Robert Brown, W. H. Cook, F. P. Nichols.
29. Rock Springs (Tal.)—J. R. Pricket, H. H. Litzey, J. T. McElvey.
30. Rock Springs (Chambers)—G. W. Newman, W. W. Still, W. T. Johnson, H. H. Hammond, J. F. Newman.
31. Rock Mills—Jas. Walker, W. J. Barrett, W. M. Taylor.
32. Sandy Creek—W. G. Brazell, J. F. Reynolds, T. D. Lunceford, H. Reynolds, J. Brazell.
33. Shiloh—J. T. Leverett, T. J. Henley.
34. Tallapoosa—W. W. Craddock, James Gregory, S. B. Davis, J. Q. C. Stanford.
- Waverly—G. W. Ellington, J. R. Evans.

4. John P. Shaffer, of Dadeville, Ala., was re-elected Moderator, and W. C. Bledsoe, of LaFayette, Ala., was re-elected Clerk and Treasurer.

5. Correspondents were received, viz:

From Tuskegee Association—Z. D. Roby, R. T. Ayers, G. S. Anderson, G. E. Brewer, T. J. Carlisle.

From Carey Association—T. B. Fargason, J. A. Dunn, J. C. Motley, A. D. Thompson, J. D. Dunn, C. C. Fargason.

6. The following brethren were recognized in their official relations: J. G. Harris, Alabama Baptist; G. S. Anderson, Institute Work; W. C. Bledsoe, Corresponding Secretary of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions; A. R. Hardy, Greensboro Church; Z. D. Roby, Orphan's Home.

7. The Moderator announced the following committees to report at present session:

On Religious Services—Pastor and deacons of Milltown church, and I. T. Morgan, J. P. Seroyer.

On Nominations—W. C. Roeck, W. B. Nichols, J. H. Johnson, G. W. Dawson.

On Finance—W. R. Dawson, F. M. Handley, F. P. Nichols.

8. The Moderator invited J. G. Harris to address the Association, which request was complied with, and at the conclusion an old-time Baptist "hand-shaking" was given.

9. The Committee on Religious Services reported that G. S. Anderson would preach to-night.

10. On motion, times of meeting were adopted as follows: 9 a. m., adjourn at 12 m.; 2 p. m., adjourn at pleasure.

11. Committee on Hospitality made report, and then, on motion, the body adjourned.

12. Prayer by A. S. Smith.

13. At 7:30 p. m. G. S. Anderson preached on "The Dignity of Baptism."

WEDNESDAY, 9 A. M.

14. The Association was called to order by the Moderator, and devotional exercises were conducted by Z. D. Roby.

15. The Reports on Home Missions and on State Missions were read as follows:

(The Report on Foreign Missions not being at hand, the Clerk was requested to secure it and have printed in the minutes.)

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

Since our Association last met our own loved Clerk, Rev. W. C. Bledsoe, D. D., has been elected Corresponding Secretary of our State Board of Missions. He has been on the field for the past eleven months, and he now gives cheering reports of the work. The prospects are brightening all along the line, and it is now earnestly hoped, and there are reasons to believe, that at the meeting of the Baptist State Convention in November next, the Secretary will be enabled to report the board out of doubt. The debt of \$1,500, with which the year's work was begun, has been greatly reduced, and contributions for the work have been steadily coming in of late.

For the convention year ending October, 1895, and including sixteen months, the year preceding being a term of only eight months, \$11,067.13 passed through the hands of the board for the work of State Missions. Of this amount this Association gave \$441.10. This does not include the \$86.83 given to weak churches in her own bounds. Neither does the \$11,067.13 include the amounts which were given for other departments of work in the State, as Howard College, the Judson Institute, the Orphanage, etc.

The agencies employed by the board in the prosecution of its work are, first, missionary pastors. These have been employed where the cause is weak and the prospects encouraging; second, missionary evangelists, whose duty it is to canvass those districts of the State assigned them and hold missionary rallies, instruct the pastors and the people on the subject of missions, and awaken sympathy and enthusiasm in the work of the Lord generally; third, missionary colporters, who carry religious books and Bibles from house to house, talking and preaching as they go; fourth, institute work. This relates to the instruction of preachers. They are gathered in numbers, as opportunity will admit, and are taught, encouraged and brought into active sympathy with the organized work of the denomination. The State Board of Missions does a co-operative work of this kind among the negro preachers of the State, being assisted by the Home Mission Society of the North, the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, and the State Mission Board of Alabama (colored.)

Under the auspices of the State board alone, six institutes have been held for the benefit of white preachers, with most gratifying results. These were attended by 104 preachers, and for most part real enthusiasm prevailed. The board regrets its inability for want of funds to do more of this kind of work. This work is of a most profitable nature and should receive hearty support. The prospects now are that at an early day the Bible and Colportage department, and the

department of ministerial education will be made separate from the work of the Board of State Missions.

All of these several phases of work are important to the denomination in the State. They all need encouragement and enlargement. The board stands ready and anxious to make enlarged efforts along all these lines of work as soon as the contributions from the churches will justify such measures.

In addition to the three evangelists now in the field—Bro. Ray in South Alabama, Bro. Burns in North Alabama, and the Corresponding Secretary—it is deemed advisable to employ three others, and thereby have six missionary evangelists in the field. We should help to do this increased work. It is by the mouth of living preachers of his living Word that God proposes to arouse his people to a true sense of their obligations to him, as well as to save those that believe.

The work of State Missions is the very basis of all missionary work. By a thorough evangelization of the State we will double, perhaps, many times over our contributions to Home and Foreign missions. Brethren, will we not see to it that the work of the Lord at home and abroad does not suffer on account of lack of interest and liberality on our part? Profoundly grateful to God for the blessings of the past and hopeful for the future, let us go home to do better and to do more for the glory of the Lord the incoming year than ever before. The destination is great, and the work is urgent.

ARNOLD S. SMITH, Chairman.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

Your committee has not at hand the necessary data from which to give you very much statistical information. That the work of the Home board in the aggregate is annually reaching grand results is a most gratifying fact. Its efforts to have the gospel of Jesus preached in the destitute regions of the territory of the Southern Baptist Convention, to the fast increasing foreign populations of our great cities, to the Indians of the Northwest, have been in wonderful measure successful. Its missionaries along our western frontier are real pioneers, and their hardships and sufferings are almost if not quite as trying as those endured by missionaries on the foreign field. To give aid and comfort to these consecrated men of God is surely a positive duty, and ought to be a real pleasure. In connection with the Home Mission Society of the North, and the State boards of our convention, the Home board is pressing the work of evangelization among the negroes. We should feel peculiar interest in this work, for we owe peculiar obligations to these people. The work of the board in Cuba is just now under a cloud, owing to the fierce war now raging on that unfortunate island. Bro. Diaz has been banished and is at present in the United States, as are also some of his co-workers. We are glad to know, however, that the property of Baptists is in safe hands, and the work is being held together by those who still remain. Your committee can but express the hope that Cuba may be able to throw off the yoke of Spanish tyranny as well as the more oppressive yoke of Catholic dominancy. It is earnestly desired that our churches liberally give to the support of the Home board, that its work may become yet more and more of a blessing to those for whom it labors.

R. A. J. CUMBEE, Chairman.

16. These reports were discussed by R. A. J. Cumbee, W. G. Bledsoe, Z. D. Roby, A. R. Hardy, G. S. Anderson.

17. Pending discussion pledges were taken for next year's work:

Antioch	\$ 30 00
Beulah	35 00
Bethlehem	75 00
Bethel (Lee)	20 00
Bethel (Chambers)	10 00
Cusseta	60 00
Center	20 00
County Line	75 00
Camp Hill	100 00
Dadeville	150 00
Eagle Creek	20 00
Farmville	40 00
Five Points	15 00
Fellowship (Tallapoosa)	10 00
Fellowship (Randolph)	10 00
High Pine	15 00
LaFayette	250 00
Langdale	20 00
Lebanon	20 00
Liberty	10 00
Lanette	30 00
Mary	10 00
Milltown	40 00
Mt. Zion	10 00
New Hope	50 00
Providence	20 00
Pleasant Ridge	20 00
Roanoke	250 00
Rock Springs (C)	50 00
Rock Springs (T)	10 00
Rock Mills	15 00
Sandy Creek	25 00
Shiloh	10 00
Tallapoosa	25 00
Waverly	20 00
Total	\$1570 00

18. The following resolution was adopted :

Whereas, We deem it important that our State Board shall be able to meet its obligations by the end of the present convention year, Therefore—

Resolved, That our churches be requested to take a special collection for our State Board as soon as possible.

19. The reports were then adopted, and the Association adjourned. Benediction by J. R. Stodghill.

AFTERNOON SESSION.—2 O'CLOCK, P. M.

20. Met according to adjournment. Prayer by W. J. D. Upshaw.

21. The report of the Executive Committee was read and

adopted. [See close of Minutes.]

22. The report on Colportage was read and adopted, viz:

COLPORTAGE WORK.

Your committee beg to report that Rev. Geo. L. Bell, under joint appointment of the Executive Committee of our Association and the Board of State Missions, has been laboring in our territory as Evangelist Colporter. His work as Evangelist has been co-extensive with his work as Colporter. His duties have been well performed. Bro. Bell is one of our best and most popular preachers. The work of carrying the Scriptures and other good books from house to house, and of supplying the destitute with copies of the Scriptures, is a Christian service that is of untold value to the Master's cause, and can hardly be overestimated, and should never be neglected.

Bro. Bell has faithfully and successfully prosecuted this work in our Association during the past two years.

If the Association wishes the work continued, we know of no one better prepared to continue it. Your committee is not minded to make any recommendation as to continuing or discontinuing the work. We leave this decision to the wisdom of the Association; we wish only to express our high appreciation of the work done by Bro. Bell.

A report of the work done by him appears in report of Executive Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

W. T. FOSTER, Chairman.

23. The report on Sunday Schools was read, as follows:

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

While there are seasons of prosperity and adversity with the Sunday School, as with all other institutions, yet a careful survey of the field in which they are now working will reveal the fact that at no time in the history of the world have such good results come from this great hand-maid of the church of Christ in disseminating the blessed truth of the Gospel.

In every country where the Christian religion has made any progress the Sunday School is found a great factor in church work, and is doing its part in civilizing and Christianizing the world. In every land where the "still small voice" is heard and heeded, this institution has an abiding place. Among every people that pay the proper respect to woman and endeavor to rear their children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord," the Sunday School wields an influence.

While in almost every country save that in which the lowly Nazarene is not known and that in which the word of Christianity has no meaning and no synonym, the great and good effects of the Sunday School are being felt, yet there is a still greater and grander work for it in the future. While the Sunday School is to-day reaching its thousands that can not be reached by the church, the Sunday School of the future will reach its tens of thousands.

Consecrated men and women of God are beginning to be thoroughly in earnest in this great work, and they are devolving every means to enlighten, to elevate, to ennable and to Christianize the human race.

What is East Liberty Association doing in this respect? Have all the churches Sunday Schools regularly and well attended? Some of the churches have failed to report any Sunday School whatever. Where the children of a community that has no such institution go,

or what they do during the entire Sabbath day, we are unable to say; but we do know that they could not be better engaged than to be active members of a Sunday School. Parents, pastors, church-members, for the sake of the children, for the sake of the community, for the sake of the church, for God's sake bestir yourselves with reference to this great work. Do not let another month pass without the organization of a Sunday School at your church. At the next meeting of this Association we hope to hear reported from every church a flourishing Sunday School. God grant that our people may become more interested in this great work, and that in every community in this land there may be a live Sunday School, with consecrated men and women working to point the children of this country to "the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world."

J. B. DUKE, Chairman.

24. The report was discussed by W. C. Roeck, Z. D. Roby, G. E. Brewer, J. R. Stodghill, W. J. D. Upshaw, H. C. Sanders, J. P. Shaffer, H. C. Hornady, and after slight amendment, was adopted as printed.

25. A. R. Hardy, representing the Greensboro church, addressed the body on behalf of his work.

26. J. L. Gregory, pastor at Lanette, presented claims of that church for help.

27. The report on Orphan's Home was read, as follows :

REPORT ON ORPHAN'S HOME.

To the East Liberty Association—

Dear Brethren : Your committee heretofore appointed to make a report on the Orphan's Home of our denomination in this State, respectfully submit the following : Realizing the sublime privilege bequeathed to the followers of the Cross, by our ascended Lord, in caring for the helpless, the widow, the orphan, this committee would say, they have earnestly and prayerfully considered the subject committed to them, and herewith submit such information as they have been able to gather. In the report made by the committee at last Association we were informed when the Baptists of the State created the home for the benefit of the unfortunate children of our denomination, where it was located, what it cost, how much was then due on it, and how many children had been received up to that date. The committee is glad to report that the home is now paid for, that it is the property of the Baptists of the State, and while its plan is new, it is better than that of many. It has as bright prospects as the best had at the same age. While there are much needed improvements in the buildings, we should feel justly proud of the home, 12 children have been received into the home since last report. A total number of 60 since it was created.

At present there are in the home 35 children. It will now comfortably entertain only 40; to add 4 bed rooms, dining room, kitchen, laundry and sick room which it very much needs, it would accommodate 60. As to the needed improvements, let us say with our voices and our money, let the necessary improvements be made at once. The obligation and the opportunity of doing the work is ours. Let us honor our Lord and his church by meeting the obligation lovingly, fully and promptly. From our own association, Charles Prather, LaFayette, Ala., Willie and Lela Carpenter, of Camphill, three little

unfortunate children, are cared for in the home. We mention the names of these dear little ones, conscious of the fact that it may bring to some one present a sad feeling, but it may be the means of bringing close to all of us this very important matter, and make such lasting impressions upon our hearts and minds that we will uphold and maintain the home as we should. Let us remember them, both in our prayers and contributions, that we may please the Great Master, who hath said, "he that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord," and hath declared that he will be a father to the fatherless. The current expenses of the home for the present year have been near \$2,500.00, and the committee is forced to say that our contributions for the last few months have not been sufficient to meet the expenses and sustain the home.

Until 1893, strange to say, our denomination in this State had no Orphanage. Our contributions were given to the orphanages of other Christians, and our orphans were cared for by them. Now that we have a home for our destitute orphans we should esteem it a privilege and a pleasure to equip it to meet the purposes for which it was created. Have the Baptists done their duty? Try it by the rule and life of Christ. Have we visited these helpless children when they were sick? when our tables were groaning with abundance, did we feed them when they were hungry? Have we ever administered to their heart hunger? Have we tried to see that they did not wear old, worn faces while the roses of childhood should have been flashing from their young cheeks? Let us not only see that they have the wherewithal to be fed and clothed, but let us so provide, so equip and pray for the home and the children that they may live as our children live, and as we would have them live.

Respectfully submitted,

F. P. NICHOLS, Chairman.

28. The report was discussed by F. P. Nichols, Z. D. Roby, and adopted.

29. It was on motion agreed that the next session of the Association be held at Dadeville, on Tuesday after 1st Sunday in October, 1897.

30. Adjourned to to-morrow. Benediction by G. L. Bell.

31. G. E. Brewer preached at 7:30 p. m., on "Improving Opportunities."

THURSDAY—MORNING SESSION, 9 A. M.

32. The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Jas. O. Bledsoe.

33. The Report on Temperance was read as follows:

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

This is the sixty-first annual meeting of this Association, and during all these years more or less has been written and spoken on the subject of temperance. If all the reports we have put on record were gathered together they would contribute quite an array of literature on the subject. While progress has been made, and temperance has

more advocates now than ever before, it is a matter of serious and humiliating reflection that among Christians there should be any necessity for special appeals made in reports from year to year full of pleadings and warnings to Christian people—followers of the blessed Son of God—that they abstain from strong drink and live temperate lives, to the glory of him who loved them and gave himself for their salvation. Your committee feels impatient at the degradation that is constantly coming to the cause of Christ because of the drunkenness that is found among members of the churches. What can one say? Brethren, how long shall dram-drinking church members be tolerated in Baptist churches? We have only one suggestion to make: Let the pastors of our churches contend earnestly and lovingly for a better discipline in this matter; let our members come up to the support of the pastors in the effort to cleanse and purify our churches to the glory of God and the salvation of the lost. We recommend that our pastors preach a sermon on temperance before January 1, 1897, or as soon as possible.

J. L. GREGORY, Chairman.

34. The report was discussed by J. L. Gregory, A. S. Smith, J. A. McCarley, W. C. Roeck, W. P. East, G. W. Hill, G. W. Newman, F. P. Nichols, R. T. Ayers, A. R. Hardy, Z. D. Roby, and was adopted.

35. On motion, the Reports on Education and on Religious Literature were read and discussed jointly, as follows:

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

While there are many things that might be said upon the subject before us, your committee will confine itself to a few practical suggestions:

1. Our Denominational Schools. Passing over our common schools which are organized under our State laws, we come directly to consider the claims of our denominational schools. The Howard College is burdened with a large debt which has been a source of great embarrassment as well as really detrimental to its prosperity. A crisis was reached in this matter during the summer just passed, and the college buildings were advertised for sale under mortgage. The board of trustees have recently put into the field Dr. B. D. Gray and Dr. P. T. Hale, of Birmingham, commissioned to raise at least twenty thousand dollars for the temporary relief of the college. These brethren are busy in a canvass of the State and are meeting with some success, and hope to raise the amount by November 1. While the East Liberty has been quite liberal in its contributions to the Howard, the present crisis demands that we again rally to the help of the college. The college has recently opened its fall session under bright auspices.

Denominational education in Alabama, as well as the entire South, has received a severe blow in the death of Dr. Averett, president of the Judson. Under his splendid management this institution was moving steadily forward. Your committee feel assured that the trustees will wisely select Dr. Averett's successor, and that the future of the Judson will be as bright as the past.

That Baptists should patronize our schools, seems to your committee so patent as to need no argument.

2. Baptists are interested in Ministerial Education. We have about twenty young preachers who are asking help.

3. Institute work as conducted by Bro. G. S. Anderson is an im-

portant factor in the education of our preachers on the field. No work is of greater importance, and your committee earnestly recommend that our churches make contribution to this work.

W. C. BLEDSOE, Chairman.

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

The circulation of good religious literature is one of the prime factors in the formation and growth of religious sentiment. This fact is sufficient argument for all Christians to enter heartily upon every measure that promises a result so much to be desired. Upon every parent especially does there rest a serious responsibility to furnish to their children the purest and best books and papers in their reach. The times in which we live are prolific of bright, charming religious books and papers of high grade, and this literature is so cheap as to be within the means of all who desire it. The household in which are found no good books and no religious papers, is a household in which influences of the highest good are lost.

Your committee think that the following are some of the good results that would follow a wise distribution of religious literature among all the people:

1. That a great many more of them would become Christians. This, we think, is the great object in preaching the gospel everywhere, and is the object of all our missionary boards and of our contribution to them; in fact, all we do as Christians to sustain the cause of the Master is to Christianize the whole world. We think that there is nothing more helpful to us in accomplishing this end than good religious literature. A book that cost but little may be the means of turning many into the way of truth. The distribution of tracts has proven effectual in winning many souls to Christ.

2. That there would be more people converted to the Baptist doctrines. The doctrines of our denomination are so fully warranted and so well sustained by the word of God that they only need to be imbedded in the minds and hearts of the people to get them to see the truth as it is revealed in the Scriptures.

3. That we would have more sound Baptists. We need not only have the people converted to the Baptist doctrines, but to have them rooted, grounded and established in them. We sometimes hear members of Baptist churches say they are Baptists, but they don't know so well about close communion. A careful reading of the New Testament is sufficient to teach why we have close communion, if there be such in our churches. We suggest to such members to read "Close Communion; or, Baptism as a Prerequisite to Communion," by J. T. Christian.

4. That many more of our Baptist people would become missionaries. Many good people in our churches don't feel the importance of helping to give the gospel to the world. We believe that a careful reading of "The Story of Baptist Missions" and the "Crisis of Missions" would make all the members in our churches who have been converted to Christ missionaries.

5. That it would bring many more of our people in touch and sympathy with all the plans and work of our Mission Board and all the enterprises of our denomination.

These we think are some, and only some, of the very good results of furnishing the people with religious literature.

Your committee commends our home paper, the Alabama Baptist. This paper is devoted to the interest of the Baptists in Alabama. If

we read it we keep in touch with the enterprises of our denomination in the State, besides learning much of the doings of the great Baptist family in the world. No Baptist family in the State should be without it. We would recommend the Foreign Mission Journal, published at Richmond, Va., as a good source of information from both the Home and Foreign Mission boards. It can be had for 35 cents a year, or in clubs of ten at 25 cents. We would especially recommend the Sunday-school literature published by both the Southern Baptist Convention at Nashville and by the American Baptist Publication Society at Philadelphia.

Respectfully submitted,

J. P. HUNTER, Chairman.

36. The reports were discussed by W. C. Bledsoe, and adopted.

37. The report on Religious Condition of the Churches was read and adopted, as follows:

RELIGIOUS CONDITION OF THE CHURCHES.

From information obtained through the letters and by observation, we are happy to report the spiritual condition of the churches good. Protracted meetings have been held in most of them during the year, and while the number of baptisms is not so large as in some other years, the spirit of harmony prevails throughout, and loving zeal characterizes the work. All the churches are supplied with pastors; all are in sympathy and co-operation with the objects of denominational benevolence. All, except four, have Sunday Schools, and prayer meetings are kept up in many. We would give special emphasis to the importance of maintaining a high standard of piety; of keeping up prayer meetings in all the churches; and specially of maintaining family religion in daily worship in the homes of the families.

Respectfully submitted,

A. S. BRANNAN, Chairman.

38. The report on Nominations was read and adopted, as follows:

We, your committee on Nominations, report:

For Executive Committee—Jno. P. Shaffer, R. A. J. Cumbee, J. H. Johnson, W. C. McIntosh, G. J. Sorrell, W. S. Herren, W. C. Roeck, R. T. Parker.

To preach next Annual Sermon—G. A. Hornady; alternate, J. L. Gregory. W. C. ROECK, Ch'n.

39. The committee on Deceased Ministers made report, which was adopted, as follows:

We are glad that since our last meeting none of our ministers have been called from their labors. God be praised.

W. P. COFIELD, Chairman.

40. The Fifth Sunday meetings were appointed, as follows:

November, 1893—at Lanette.

January, 1897—at Lebanon.

May, 1897—at Center.

August, 1897—at Antioch.

41. On motion, any brother in good standing was authorized to represent this Association at any other Association.

42. The Finance report was read and adopted, as follows:

The churches have sent up for benevolence as follows, in vouchers and cash:

For State Missions	\$620 93
Home Board, S. B. C.	189 88
Foreign Board	332 90
Ministerial Education	48 55
Anderson's work	131 33
Aged and Infirm Ministers	30 49
Orphan's Home	360 35
Greensboro House	21 00
Howard College	78 30
Lanette church	72 26
Liberty church	17 31
Five Points church	5 00
Minutes	67 70
Cash	\$ 720 12
Vouchers	1280 65
Total	\$2,000 77

We have examined the Treasurer's vouchers, and find them correct.
W. R. DAWSON, Chairman.

43. Standing Committees were appointed. (See close of Minutes.)

44. On motion, the Secretary was allowed \$25.00 for his services. (This amount has been given to weak churches.—W. C. B.)

45. The Executive Committee was instructed to discontinue colportage work, and organize a system to help the weak churches in our own bounds, as their judgment may decide.

46. The usual vote of thanks for generous hospitality was unanimously given.

47. J. P. Shaffer was elected as the Association's representative to the Southern Baptist Convention, to meet at Wilmington, N. C., in May, 1897, and C. J. Burden, alternate.

48. The following were appointed delegates to Alabama Baptist State Convention, to meet at Huntsville, Nov. 6, 1896:

A. S. Smith, J. P. Shaffer, G. A. Hornady, J. L. Gregory, J. P. Hunter, Geo. L. Bell, H. Wallace, A. S. Brannan, C. J. Burden.

49. The Association then adjourned, after giving the hand of parting, to meet at Dadeville, Ala., on Tuesday after first Sunday in Oct. 1897.

50. Prayer by Geo. E. Brewer.

W. C. BLEDSOE,
Clerk.

J. P. SHAFFER,
Moderator.

[The report on Foreign Missions has not reached the Secretary.—W. C. B.]

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Your committee have performed the duties assigned to us. Bro. G. L. Bell was employed for the year ending Sept. 30th, 1896, as Missionary Colporteur. We give statement of his work:

100 Bibles sold, value.	\$ 228 15
128 Testaments " "	55 50
559 other books " "	273 15
OG 1 Bibles donated	10 50

Total No. books 785—value \$567 30

Miles traveled, 4,500; sermons preached, 102; addresses, 27; baptized, 20—and in connection with his work, 41. Held 25 prayer meetings; made 1,084 visits. Bro. Bell has done a good work.

In view of the fact that there has been so thorough a canvass of our Association by our Colporteur in the past, we think that we can, with no detriment to our cause, discontinue this work, at least for the present year. We therefore recommend that for the ensuing Associational year your committee be empowered to aid, in their best judgment, churches that need aid either for church building or the supplementing of the salaries of pastor; all to be reported as part of State Work. Your committee finds that there is still due and unpaid to Bro. Bell the sum of \$126.84, and that there is still due the A. B. P. S. the sum of \$58.77. These two amounts making a total of \$185.61, must be paid from the funds sent up for State Missions, and if there be not enough of such fund, that a sufficient amount of undesignated funds be applied to their liquidation.

G. A. HORNADY, Chairman.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

Burden, C. J.	LaFayette,	Alabama.
Bledsoe, W. C.	LaFayette,	"
Brannan, A. S.	Camp Hill,	"
Bell, G. L.	Jackson's Gap,	"
Bedell, W. H.	Waverly,	"
Cumbie, R. A. J.	Dadeville,	"
Cumbie, J.	Stroud,	"
Cox, G. W.	Roanoke,	"
Cofield, W. P.	Roanoke,	"
Duffy, D. S.	Denver,	"
Foster, W. T.	Camp Hill,	"
Gregory, J. L.	Easton,	"
Hornady, G. A.	LaFayette,	"
Hunter, J. P.	"	"
Lloyd, W. E.	Auburn,	"
McCarley, J. A.	Blackman,	"
Newman, L. L.	Jackson's Gap.	"
Newman, G. S.	LaFayette,	"
Robertson, W. A.	Dadeville,	"
Shaffer, Jno. P.	Dadeville,	"
Smith, A. S.	Roanoke,	"
Smith, E. C.	Fredonia,	"
Stodghill, J. R.	Five Points,	"
Tucker, S. O.	Blackman,	"
Weaver, G. F.	Louina,	"

LICENSED MINISTERS.

Jas. O. Bledsoe	Beulah,	"
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J. P. Bradden	Langdale,
Culpepper, C. T.	"
Guinn, J. M. K.	"
Litzey, D. W.	Jackson's Gap,
Rotten, W. R.	Louina,
Stroud, L. B.	LaFayette,

SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION WORK.

The Sunday Schools contributed for missions as follows:

Beulah	\$ 5 00
Bethlehem	30 31
Cusseta	20 50
Cusseta Young Cadets	26 87
Center	8 79
Camp Hill	40 00
County Line	10 00
Dadeville	86 12
LaFayette	100 00
Miltown	19 50
New Hope	12 00
Roanoke	66 14
Roanoke Sunbeams	7 74
Pleasant Ridge	8 46
Rock Mills	5 00

The Ladies' Mission Societies contributed to missions:

Miltown	3 20
LaFayette	84 78

(The above is taken from the letters. Perhaps other Sunday Schools and Ladies' Mission Societies gave to missions, but not reported.—CLERK.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

1. On Foreign Missions—C. J. Burden, Chairman; S. R. Wooddy, W. A. Adams, H. W. Oliver.
2. On Home Missions—W. J. D. Upshaw, Chairman; Jas. T. Robertson, J. T. Lee, J. B. Barrow.
3. On State Missions—Rev. J. R. Stodghill, Chairman; J. W. Foster, L. T. Talbot, J. P. Scroyer.
4. On Colportage—A. S. Brannan, Chairman; W. C. McIntosh, W. H. Shepherd, J. T. Coker.
5. On Sunday Schools—J. P. Hunter, Chairman; W. S. Talbot, J. M. Jackson, E. Sanders.
6. On Education—Jcs. H. Johnson, Chairman; W. C. Roeck, F. P. Nichols, G. W. Ellington.
7. On Temperance—G. A. Hornady, Chairman; W. P. East, Geo. W. Newman, J. T. Jones.
8. On Religious Literature—J. L. Gregory, Chairman; W. G. Phillips, R. A. Gaines, W. Y. Harrison.
9. On Orphan's Home—R. A. J. Cumbie, Chairman; I. T. Morgan, W. B. Nichols, F. A. Weaver.
10. On Religious Condition of the Churches—G. L. Bell, Chairman; J. F. Breed, A. F. Duffy, M. V. Maley.
11. On Deceased Ministers—Clarence Smith, Chairman; H. M. Mickle, Jas. Walker, T. D. Lunceford.

FINANCE TABLE.

STATISTICS OF EAST LIBERTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION—1896.

111

